

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite Claims 1-6 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an L-amino acid comprising
 - a) culturing a microorganism having an ability to produce an L-amino acid in a medium, whereby said L-amino acid accumulates in the medium, and
 - b) collecting said L-amino acid from the medium,wherein said microorganism is a methanol-utilizing bacterium having the Entner-Doudoroff pathway and is modified so that 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase activity and/or 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase activity are/is enhanced as compared to a wild-type bacterium, and said L-amino acid is selected from L-amino acids produced by a biosynthetic pathway which utilizes pyruvic acid as an intermediate, ~~and~~ wherein said 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase activity ~~and/or~~ 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase activity ~~are/is~~ enhanced by
 - ~~aA)~~ increasing a copy number of a gene coding for 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase ~~and/or a gene coding for 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase, or~~
 - ~~bB)~~ modifying an expression regulatory sequence of said gene so that expression of the gene is enhanced in said bacterium, andwherein said 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase activity is enhanced by
 - C) increasing a copy number of a gene coding for
2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase, or
 - D) modifying an expression regulatory sequence of said gene so that
expression of the gene is enhanced in said bacterium.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said methanol-utilizing bacterium comprises a bacterium belonging to the genus *Methylophilus*.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said L-amino acid is selected from

the group consisting of L-lysine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine and L-valine.

5. (Withdrawn) A methanol-utilizing bacterium having the Entner-Doudoroff pathway, whereby said bacterium is modified so that 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase activity and/or 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase activity are/is enhanced, and has an ability to produce an L-amino acid via a biosynthetic pathway which utilizes pyruvic acid as an intermediate.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an L-amino acid which is a product of a biosynthetic pathway which utilizes pyruvic acid as an intermediate comprising

a) culturing a methanol-utilizing bacterium having the Entner-Doudoroff pathway in a medium, ~~whereby~~ wherein said bacterium has the ability to secrete an L-amino acid into a medium,

b) collecting said L-amino acid from the medium,

wherein said bacterium is modified to enhance 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase activity and/or 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase activity as compared to a wild-type bacterium, ~~and~~ wherein said 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase activity ~~and/or~~ 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase activity are/is enhanced by

a)A) increasing a copy number of a gene coding for 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase and/or a gene coding for

2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase, or

B) modifying an expression regulatory sequence of said gene so that expression of the gene is enhanced in said bacterium, and

wherein said 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase activity is enhanced by

C) increasing a copy number of a gene coding for

2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase, or

D) modifying an expression regulatory sequence of said gene so that expression of the gene is enhanced in said bacterium.

7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said methanol-utilizing bacterium comprises a bacterium belonging to the genus *Methylophilus*.
8. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said L-amino acid is selected from the group consisting of L-lysine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine and L-valine.